

II. REMARKS

Claims 1-10 are pending in this application. Applicants do not acquiesce in the correctness of the rejections and reserve the right to present specific arguments regarding any rejected claims not specifically addressed. Further, Applicants reserve the right to pursue the full scope of the subject matter of the original claims in a subsequent patent application that claims priority to the instant application. Reconsideration in view of the following remarks is respectfully requested.

In the Office Action, claims 1-10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over West *et al.* (U.S. Patent No. 6,446,176 B1), hereafter “West,” in view of Cina, Jr. (U.S. Patent No. 4, 930,073). Applicants assert that the cited references do not teach or suggest each and every feature of the claimed invention. For example, with respect to independent claim 1, Applicants submit that the cited references fail to teach a table of keys, each key comprising: a universal identifier; a first record identifier; and a second record identifier. The Office equates the first record identifier of the claimed invention with a primary data bridge volume 316 and a secondary status bridge 318 located in the primary storage system 300 of West. Fig. 3. The Office then identifies the second record identifier of the claimed invention with a secondary data bridge volume 620 and primary status bridge volume 22 located in the secondary storage system 302 of West. Fig. 3. To this extent, the elements of West that the Office equates with the first record identifier and second record identifier of the claimed invention are not elements of a single key in a single table as claimed but are rather included in separate storage systems. Fig. 3. Further, the Office does not specify with which element of West it equates the

universal identifier of the claimed invention, but rather, merely refers to the entirety of Fig. 3 and a paragraph in West that describe the features of West that the Office equates with the first record identifier and second record identifier. Accordingly, nowhere does West teach or suggest a single table having keys that each have a universal identifier, a first record identifier and a second record identifier.

In contrast, the invention of claim 1 includes "...a table of keys for synchronizing related data elements between a first and second storage system, each key comprising: a universal identifier corresponding to a data element in the first and second storage system; a first record identifier corresponding to the data element in the first storage system; and a second record identifier corresponding to the data element stored in the second storage system." Claim 1. As such, the table of keys of the claimed invention is not merely a set of objects scattered among disparate systems as are the primary data bridge, secondary status bridge, secondary data bridge volume and primary status bridge volume of West, but rather contain keys for synchronizing related data that each contain a universal identifier, a first record identifier and a second record identifier. Thus, elements of Fig. 3 of West do not teach or suggest the table of keys of the claimed invention. Cina, Jr. does not cure this deficiency. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection be withdrawn.

With further regard to the 35 U.S.C. §103(a) rejections over West in view of Cina Jr., Applicants assert that there is no motivation or suggestion for combining the West and Cina Jr. references. Specifically, the Office quotes a passage of Cina explaining the use of the synchronization key used for encryption purposes and stored in auxiliary storage. However, the

Office's cited passage indicates only a description of the synchronization key of Cina and not how and why someone would think to combine this with West. In contrast, the synchronization key of Cina is used, not in data replication, but rather for encryption. Furthermore, it is not clear how the auxiliary storage of Cina could be adapted for use with the dual systems of West, especially given that the dual nature of the West features is an important feature. To this extent, there would be no expectation of success from the combination of West and Cina. As such, the office has failed to prove a *prima facie* case of obviousness. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection be withdrawn.

With regard to claim 10, Applicants respectfully submit that the cited references do not teach or suggest that the first and second storage system do not separately maintain information for synchronizing the first and second storages system with each other. In contrast, the passages of West cited by the Office specifically teaches systems for synchronizing on each of the two storage systems. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the Office withdraw its rejection.

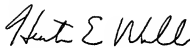
With regard to the Office's other arguments regarding dependent claims, Applicants herein incorporate the arguments presented above with respect to the independent claim listed above. In addition, Applicants submit that all dependant claims are allowable based on their own distinct features. However, for brevity, Applicants will forego addressing each of these rejections individually, but reserve the right to do so should it become necessary. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the Office withdraw its rejections.

III. CONCLUSION

In addition to the above arguments, Applicants submit that each of the pending claims is patentable for one or more additional unique features. To this extent, Applicants do not acquiesce to the Office's interpretation of the claimed subject matter or the references used in rejecting the claimed subject matter. Additionally, Applicants do not acquiesce to the Office's combinations and modifications of the various references or the motives cited for such combinations and modifications. These features and the appropriateness of the Office's combinations and modifications have not been separately addressed herein for brevity. However, Applicants reserve the right to present such arguments in a later response should one be necessary.

In light of the above, Applicants respectfully submit that all claims are in condition for allowance. Should the Examiner require anything further to place the application in better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicants' undersigned representative at the number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,



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